The Génériques association was founded in 1987 and, in 1989, set up the first major exhibition dedicated to the history of immigration in France. Inaugurated as part of the bicentenary of the French Revolution, the *France des étrangers-France des libertés* [*Foreigners’ France-France of freedoms*] exhibition reconstructed two centuries of this history through newspapers published by immigrant communities in France and was given an enthusiastic welcome by the press and public. Encouraged by this success, Génériques set itself up as a research and cultural production organisation for the history and remembrance of immigration in France in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Génériques was eager to develop interest in the heritage of immigration and in 1992 entered into a partnership with the French Archives Department to create a national Inventory of sources of public and private archives on the history of foreigners in France from 1800 to modern times.

For over ten years, Génériques has been making efforts to create an inventory of regional and national public archives and iconographical and audiovisual sources concerning foreigners in France. With the French Archives Department, it has published *Les Etrangers en France – Guide des sources d’archives publiques et privées – XIX*-XXe siècles* [*Foreigners in France – a guide to public and private archive sources*], in 4 volumes. A fifth volume is currently being prepared.

Génériques also works to safeguard private immigration archives – archives from community or support associations, reception and housing organisations, private individuals, militants… – and to make them available to the public.

Génériques has become a leading organisation in France and Europe for the historical and archive heritage of immigration. As such, it has organised a number of seminars and colloquia with French, European and international partners.

Génériques is a member of the AEMI network (*Association of European Migration Institutions*), and is also member of the « Cité nationale de l’histoire de l’immigration » scientific committee and board of directors.

Génériques is also responsible for the biennial North African migrations festival in partnership with a number of research teams from North Africa.

"Application for registration at the “École des Chartes” by José Maria de Heredia in 1862". © CHAN, F° 4047.

“Foreigners in France, France of freedoms” exhibition, 1989”. © Collection (Coll.) Génériques.
Still with the aim of raising public awareness and enhancing interest in immigration archives, Éditions Mémoire-Génériques publishes or associates itself with many publications of academic research or general public works on the history of immigration. Its magazine, Migrance, Europe’s leading magazine specialising in the history of immigration, is distributed internationally.

Génériques regularly takes part in preparing documentaries, radio programmes and cultural events on the presence of foreigners in France, mainly through previously unused photo and illustration research or advice in tracing rarely used archive documents.

As a resource centre, Génériques welcomes researchers, students, iconographers, documentary makers and cultural project leaders by appointment.

It places at their disposal the archives kept on its premises, a collection of 4000 posters and newspapers, i.e. over 300 titles, a library containing 1200 works and its specialized databases.

Génériques is keen to give easy access to sources relating to the history of foreigners over the last two centuries and has created a website that offers a number of databases on-line that allow browsers to locate posters (collected since 1970); public and private archives in France (since 1800); newspapers (since 1800) and photographs since 1990. The site also contains a “biographical dictionary” formed from details of key personalities since the mid-18th Century and information on current cultural affairs relating to immigration themes.

Situated at a crossroads between universities, institutions, associations and cultural groups, Génériques helps to create links between the various groups involved in France and Europe, encourage work on the history of immigration and raise public awareness of the contribution foreign populations have made to the history of France.
After the publication in 1999 of the first three volumes, dedicated to regional archives, the fourth volume, which is jointly published by Génériques and the French Archives Department, presents sources of public and private archives kept in the national Archives on the history of foreigners in France since 1800.

This inventory, which has been carried out under an agreement, is financed by the “Fonds d’action et de soutien pour l’intégration et la lutte contre les discriminations” (FASILD) [Aid and support fund for integration and anti-discrimination policy], the Ministry for Employment, Work and Social Cohesion (Population and Migrations Department, interministerial town hall commission), the Ministry of Culture and Communication (Commission for Development and Regional Action, French Archives Department) and the City of Paris.
Unique of its kind, this book presents the public and private sources in the National Archives concerning the history of foreigners in France from 1800 to modern times.

A detailed presentation of sources in the four national archive centres, 1430 biographical notes on personalities from the world of politics, literature, law and the Church, diplomats, painters, sculptors, merchants, manufacturers, foreign craftsmen, 326 newspaper titles published by foreigners in France and thousands of indexed geographical references.

“We have come a long way from the early days of the late 1980’s, which saw the emergence of the first academic works and the first cultural initiatives on the theme of the history of immigration. The publication in the “Journal officiel” on the 31 of December 2004 of the decree founding the National Center for the History of Immigration is just as significant in this regard. We are at the start of a new phase of which the publication of this book is both a component and a sign”.

Said Bouziri, Chairman,

Driss El Yazami, General representative, Génériques

A precious archive and history resource for researchers, students, genealogists, journalists, documentary makers, iconographers and people with an interest in contemporary history.

“Invitation to the Imperial Opera Theatre signed by the composer Gioacchino Rossini”. © CHAN, AJ” 499.

Jean-Louis Borloo, Minister of Employment, Work and Social Cohesion, Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, Minister of Culture and Communication

“I have no hesitation in considering this to be an exemplary enterprise. (...) The history of foreigners concerns us all and the development of our knowledge of the subject is a national cause”.

Philippe Joutard, Rector

A precious archive and history resource for researchers, students, genealogists, journalists, documentary makers, iconographers and people with an interest in contemporary history.

“Yugoslavian workers in breach of contract with the Metallurgical Society of Périgord, 1929 ».

© CHAN, F” 14969
Eager to develop the heritage of immigration in France, Génériques set out in 1992, in partnership with the French Archives Department, to create a national inventory of public and private archive sources on the history of foreigners in France in the 19th and 20th Centuries. This work was the first of its size in France and Europe.

The book “Foreigners in France - a guide to public and private archive sources, 19th and 20th Centuries” was published in 1999 in three volumes. Its 2408 pages present all the documents relating to the history of foreigners from 1800 to 1962 kept in the public regional archive centers in the 96 metropolitan departments in France and in public regional or local organisations responsible for preserving heritage (libraries, museums, etc.); they also present private archives emanating from associations linked to immigration, unions, companies and organisations specialising in action directed at immigrant populations. To this inventory is added a geographical index of over 5000 entries intended to facilitate research.

Génériques has carried out this research work as part of an agreement running over several years with the Ministry for Culture and Communication (Development and Training Department and French Archives Department), and in particular with the support of the “Fonds d’aide et de soutien pour l’intégration et la lutte contre les discriminations” (FASILD) [Aid and support fund for integration and anti-discrimination policy], the Department of Population and Migrations (DPM), etc.
Extracts from the preface and foreword

“This is, above all, a scientific guide, and as such is a precious resource for researchers, but Génériques’ approach cannot be reduced to this single aspect, however essential it may be.

[…] We are in fact convinced that, above and beyond the scientific value of this historic knowledge, it will also serve as material and a basis for a number of initiatives linked to living culture and the appropriation or re-appropriation of origins”.

Martine Aubry, Minister of Employment and Solidarity
Catherine Trautmann, Minister of Culture and Communication

“The publication of this guide is a real event that should give a decisive impetus to the migration history. The book irreversibly sanctions a recognition of the history of immigration as a new discipline”.

Michel Dreyfus, historian

Extracts from press reviews

“The Guide can be read like a novel – a disjointed one, certainly -, it’s so full of anecdotes and stories linking day-to-day life with major historical events. For all lovers of stories and history”.

Françoise Galland, Politis, December 23, 1999

“This Guide to public and private archive sources works like a huge set of keys, with the file names opening the doors and giving access to stories from which historians make history. But anyone may wish to cross the threshold, travel through time and perhaps come back with his logbook to turn the title of a file into the title of a novel”.

Jean-Baptiste Marongiu, Libération, January 6, 2000

“The Guide to archive sources appears to be a tremendous resource for historians. But it is also a great journey of remembrance for the millions of French people who have a close relative born abroad, and for those who want to find out just how much foreigners have contributed to the country’s history. […] The construction of the Guide will act as a salutary incentive to place documents that might otherwise have been lost in the department archives. It will help communities to understand the importance of these bundles of letters, reports, posters and photos”.

Philippe Bernard, Le Monde, October 6, 2000

1- “Passport issued to Cristiano Cavigilli, a Swiss patissier, by the mayor of Marseille in 1825” © AD du Gers, 4 M 97.
2- “Passport issued to the composer Elias Burski, from Volhynie, by the Berne police, for entry into France, 1816”.
3- “Passport issued by the Spanish authorities, 1827”.
4- “Passport issued to Caterina Giacobelli by the consul of Piedmont-Sarduria in Bastia, 1827”.
© AD du Lot, 1 M 113, 114 et 116.
For over ten years, Génériques has been raising awareness and distributing information to preserve the heritage of immigration, which is vital to an understanding of French contemporary history. The private archive collection comes from housing organisations, reception and support structures, community associations, cultural services, unions, private individuals and researchers... and covers the whole of the 20th Century.

The special methodology designed by Génériques for the immigration archives inventory involves a number of methods of intervention, from a simple assessment that draws up an initial inventory of the archives and the conditions in which the collection is kept to detailed inventories. Collections may be kept by the holders, lodged with Génériques or in a public or private archive centre.

Inventories are presented on the website, along with notices highlighting the historical interest of the collection.

These archives form new, original sources for the history of migration, and may also be useful in reconstructing certain immigration movements whose history has been dispersed or has disappeared. For example:

- The Othmani, FTCR and ATF collections, which contribute to our understanding of currents of Tunisian opposition in France;
- The El Yazami, Zniber, AMF and ATMF collections, which give information about the associative activities of Moroccan immigrants;
- The Belkeddar, Bouziri and Othmani collections, which contain original archives concerning the movements of Algerian, Tunisian and Moroccan students between North Africa and Europe.

www.generiques.org
Inventories on-line or being produced

The website offers a number of headings: information on the latest scientific and cultural news linked to migrations, inventories of private archives and photographic exhibitions, but its originality lies in its specialist databases.

These bases are vital in locating and viewing immigration archives and are an essential tool for the preparation of research work, publications, exhibitions, documentaries, radio programmes...

The “Archives and immigration” database gives access to the contents of the book *Les Étrangers en France – guide des sources d’archives publiques et privées XIX-XX siècles* (Foreigners in France – a guide to public and private archive sources – 19th and 20th Centuries)

The database contains all the documents on foreigners produced by the major government administrations, ministries, national public authorities, prefectures, sub-prefectures, town halls, courts, hospitals, solicitors, chambers of commerce, companies, unions, associations, libraries and museums.

As well as being a collective history of immigration, social groups and specific communities (history of immigration policies and networks, foreign labour, political exile, acquisition of French nationality, etc.), the base highlights the individual experiences of foreigners and their contribution to the history of France from a demographic, economic, political and cultural point of view. Researchers will therefore find material for monographs, prosopographic approaches or biographies.

The “Immigration newspapers” database is a collection of newspapers published by foreign communities in France, from the early 19th Century to modern times. It gives the title and its various forms, the editor, the language, date and place of publication, frequency and the place(s) in which the newspaper is kept (libraries, archive centres, etc.).

The base can also be used to trace original sources kept in public archives, such as publication subscription, authorisation or prohibition records, individual files on publishers, editors or directors, lists of readers, etc.

Thousands of newspapers have been published by foreigners in France since the Revolution. These include the *Industrial Advertiser* (Paris, 1856) which demonstrates the role of the British in France’s economic and industrial development during the 19th Century, the humorous review *Hayal* (Paris, 1901), marking the emergence in France of an Ottoman opposition press from the 1890’s onwards, *La Racial nègre*, a publication by the League for the Defence of the Negro Race (Paris, 1927-1931), a platform for the independence movements formed by people from colonial territories in the 1930’s, and the bulletin of the *Unión general de trabajadores de España en exilio* (Toulouse, late 1940’s).

These immigration newspapers provided information and were often a forum for opposition, giving an insight into foreigners’ preoccupations and political, social and cultural activities. But although France was a land of free expression, the archives also show evidence of police surveillance and censorship.
The “Biographical Dictionary”, which is regularly added to, offers biographical details concerning well-known or anonymous people, mostly foreigners or of foreign origin, but also some French people who had links with the history of immigration.

These details paint a broad picture of their lives, but the base’s originality lies, above all, in the list of often unusual written, iconographic and audiovisual archive sources available for each biography.

While the names of Ivan Turgenev, Ignaz Pleyel, Princess Beljiojoso, Marie Curie and Kateb Yacine are well known to the general public, we know much less about the experiences of Gustav Aghelli, the Swedish painter and hack, who took courses at the School of Oriental Languages in Paris, then at the Al Azhar university in Cairo in the late 19th Century, or Ivan Chavichvily, a Georgian politician who took refuge in Nice and was interned in the Ajain camp (Creuse) during the First World War.

The “Immigration Posters” collection contains over 4000 original items covering the period from the 1970’s to today. With 1500 images that can be viewed on the site, the base is one of the most important digitised collections of posters in the field of immigration.

The historic value of the posters is evident: strikes against the Marcellin-Fontanet circular concerning the regularisation of immigrants in 1972, the general strike against crimes of a racist nature in 1973, the rent strike of 1975 to 1980, the birth of associations fighting against racism in the 1980’s, claims for equality of rights and a new citizenship and for foreigners’ right to vote in the 1990’s, the fight against discrimination, cultural events (festivals, theatre, music, concerts, cinema). Emanating from community associations, reception and support organisations and public institutions, they form an original iconographic collection for illustrating books and reviews or for setting up exhibitions.

Finally, Génériques wanted to set up an iconographic collection by creating “Photo Reports” of events linked to topical immigration themes, particularly in Ile-de-France.

The database presents a selection of photographs from among the 270 reports. Though it does not have the historic dimension of the other bases – even though the early reports date back to the early 1990’s, it represents an iconographic collection in the making.

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Les Étrangers en France - guide des sources d’archives publiques et privées XIX-XX siècles (Foreigners in France - A guide to public and private archive sources, 19th and 20th Centuries).


The book presents all the regional and national public archives on the history of étrangers from 1800 to modern times along with documents produced by immigration associations, unions, companies and organisations specialising in action to support immigrant populations.

Presse et mémoire, France des étrangers, France des libertés (Press and memory, “Foreigners’ France, France of freedoms”)

Exhibition catalogue – a Génériques / Editions Ouvrières joint publication - 1990 - 208 pages - 20 euros

Catalogue contents: 21 original studies; 54 portraits of foreign journalists in France; a chronology from 1850 to 1962 of the life of foreign communities and the history of their press; 13 flagship titles presented; 194 illustrations.

From the first newspapers in Arabic founded in France in the first half of the 19th Century to the Kurdish and Armenian scientific reviews of today, this exhibition goes back over two centuries of the history of these hundreds of newspapers created by immigrant communities and of the key figures who founded and led these “exile papers”.

Les fantômes du 17 octobre (The ghosts of 17 October)

By Linda Amiri - Preface by Benjamin Stora,
Edition Mémoire-Génériques
2003. 198 pages - 7 euros.

Police violence, exactions and murder: for Algerians and the children of immigration, the 17 October 1961 remains a memorable date. This “night of horror and shame”, which saw the Algerian war of independence move to the banks of the Seine, was also a moment of pride. The book finally shows us that the 17 October 1961 cannot be reduced to a macabre statistic and that its place in history is that of a living memory.
Joint publications

Les Italiens en France depuis 1945
(The Italians in France since 1945)
The book is the result of a colloquium that was attended by specialists and young researchers from France and Italy. The challenge was first and foremost to throw more light on Italian migration in France since 1945, leading on to questions about more recent issues such as government policies and cultural identities…

Paris, the “city of light”, has always had a unique relationship with visitors and immigrants from all continents. For those from the Middle East and North Africa, Paris was, and still is, one of the capitals of the Arab world. Traces of this presence are astonishingly varied, as the images in the book show.

Le Paris Asie, 150 ans de présence de la Chine, de l’Indochine, du Japon... à Paris (1854-2004)
(Asians in Paris 150 years of the presence of China, Indochina and Japan... in Paris (1854-2004))
“Asians in Paris” retraces the history in pictures of Asian populations arriving in Paris over two centuries. Though it did not emerge until the early 20th Century, the history of the “Asian” presence goes back to the last century, as can be seen from the French and Parisian press, public and private collections and literary works.
A resource centre for migration history and archives.

Génériques has a number of collections available on its premises: private archive collections deposited at Génériques, and collections of posters, photographs and newspapers concerning immigration.

The documentation kept and collected by the association over more than twenty years is available for consultation: this includes a library with over 1200 publications, 70 dissertations and theses, 300 periodical titles and a hundred theme-based files.

Génériques staff may also carry out more exhaustive searches on our internal databases than on those presented on the website.

Génériques offers a personalised research assistance service by appointment or at a distance.

Researchers, students, journalists, iconographers, museum managers and film producers (documentaries or fiction) can be given bibliographical guidance and assistance in locating documents in public and private archive and documentation centres.

A multidisciplinary migration research centre

With an extensive network of social science researchers in France, other European countries and North Africa, the Génériques staff organises colloquiums and seminars and carries out sociological studies and surveys.

Research work and colloquiums

- Policies of remembrance


- Between protection of rights and globalisation: Moroccan migratory dynamics, history, economics, politics and culture, Casablanca, June 2003.
  Colloquium organised in collaboration with the Human Rights Documentation, Information and Training Center (Rabat).

  Colloquium organised with the support of FASILD, Proceedings published in the Migrance review, special issue, 2002.

- History and archives of migrations in France and Europe, Paris, October 1999,

- The “French model” for integration in Europe, Paris, June 1999,
  Colloquium organised on behalf of the Social Action Fund.

- Television and radio for a pluralist Europe, Strasbourg, October 1995,

- Press and immigration in Europe, Paris, December 1995,
  Proceedings published in the Migrance review num.11-12, 1996.
Apprées 92 • Association de culture berbère (ACB) • Association dauphinoise pour l’accueil des travailleurs étrangers (ADATE, Grenoble) • Association pour la connaissance de l’histoire de l’Afrique contemporaine (ACHAC) • Assemblée citoyenne des originaires de Turquie (ACORT) • Association culturelle des Maghrébins de Sarcelles (ACMS) • Association de développement et de revalorisation de l’interculturel pour la citoyenneté (ADRIC) • Association des Marocains en France (AMF) • Association des revues plurielles (ARP) • Association des travailleurs maghrébins en France (ATMF) • Association des travailleurs Renault de l’Île Seguin (ATRIS) • Association des Tunisiens de France (ATF) • Association franco-chinoise Pierre Ducet • Fédération nationale des associations pour l’enseignement et la formation des travailleurs immigrés et de leurs familles (AEFTI) • Fédération des associations Rhône-Alpes pour le logement et l’insertion sociale (ARALIS, Lyon) • Les bâtisseurs de mémoire (BDM) • Bibliothèque de documentation internationale contemporaine (BDIC) / Musée d’histoire contemporaine • Centre de recherche et d’actions sociales (CERAS) • Centre pour la communication et la formation dans l’espace local (CCFEL) • Centre d’études et de documentation sur l’émigration italienne (CEDEI) • Centre de documentation sur les migrations humaines (CDMH, Luxembourg) • Centre de documentation, de l’information et de formation en droits de l’Homme (CDIFDH, Maroc) • Centre d’information et de documentation sur l’immigration et le Maghreb (CIDIM, Marseille) • Centre euro-méditerranéen migrations and development (EMCEMO, Pays-Bas) • Centre France-Asie • Cimade • Cité nationale de l’histoire de l’immigration (CNHI) • Comité de liaison pour la promotion des migrants et des publics en difficulté d’insertion (CLP) • Comité de liaison pour l’alphabétisation et la promotion, délégation Ile-de-France (CLAP) • Commission européenne / Equal • Conseil régional Ile-de-France • Coordination des collectivités portugaises en France (CCPF) • D’un monde à l’autre (Roubaix) • Fédération des associations de soutien pour les travailleurs immigrés (FASTI) • Fédération des associations et des centres d’Espagnols émigrés en France (FACEEF) • Fédération des Tunisiens pour une citoyenneté des deux rives (FTCR) • Fonds d’action et de soutien pour l’intégration et la lutte contre les discriminations (FASILD) • Institut national de l’audiovisuel (INA) • Interaction France-Portugal • Le Grain (Saint-Étienne) • Maison des femmes de Paris / Archives, recherches et cultures lesbiennes (ARCL) et Réseau pour l’autonomie des femmes immigrées et réfugiées (RAJ-FIRE) • Maison des sciences de l’Homme / Groupe d’étude sur l’usage des technologies de l’information et de la communication dans les migrations • Mediterranean Migration Observatory (Athènes) • Mémorial de Caen • Ministère de la Parité et de l’Égalité professionnelle, Service des droits des femmes et de l’égalité • Ministère de l’Emploi, du Travail et de la Cohésion sociale / Direction de la population et des migrations (DPM) et Délégation interministérielle à la ville (DIV) • Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication / Direction des Archives de France (DAF) et Délégation au développement et à l’action territoriale (DDAT) • Musée de l’assistance publique (Paris) • Network Migration in Europe (Berlin) • Presses universitaires de Rennes (PUR) • Service social d’aide aux émigrants (SSAE) • Triangle Bleu, documentation et archives des Républicains espagnols déportés de France • Troisième collectif des sans-papiers • Université de Nice Sophia-Antipolis / Laboratoire Sport Représentations et Régulations sociales de l’UFR STAPS • Ville de Paris • Ville du Havre…

Génériques works in partnership with the Bibliothèque de documentation internationale contemporaine (BDIC), the Cité nationale de l’histoire de l’immigration (CNHI), the Direction des Archives de France (DAF), and is a member of the Association of European Migration Institutions (AEMI), the Association des revues plurielles (ARP), and the Collectif des centres de documentation en histoire ouvrière et sociale (CODHOS).
Foreigners in France, a guide to public and private archive sources, volume 4, is entirely dedicated to national archives and highlights archives bearing witness to the presence of foreigners in France, produced by central government administrations, Presidents of France up to 1958, national public establishments under the 5th Republic, individuals and private organisations – associations, unions, manufacturing or mining companies, banks – who have placed their documents in the National Archives.

Major events, news stories, unusual anecdotes, tragic destinies, famous lives—a whole series of experiences lived by groups and individuals—make the book read like a succession and intersection of histories within the history of France.

This book reconstructs the lives of the thousands of anonymous people who, since the 19th Century, have crossed different borders, many of them ending up settling in France. Migrants, exiles, travellers and foreign students from every continent, their journeys form part of the great migratory movements of the 19th and 20th Centuries and of the ideological, political, union, economic and cultural framework of their period.
The 1430 biographical notes on foreigners who have played a part in political, economic, social and cultural life in France, which are found in the appendix, attest to the diversity and continuity of the presence of foreigners in France over the last two centuries. They are individual destinies that stand out throughout the book.

Statesmen, literary figures, lawyers, churchmen, diplomats, artists, merchants, workers and craftsmen: they came to France to work, study, stay or simply find a place where there was freedom of expression, as illustrated by over 300 newspaper titles listed at the end of the book.

The indexes point to the sources available in the National Archives for these newspapers, and for those well-known or more anonymous figures who lived in France temporarily or permanently, stayed there regularly or settled for a while before leaving for another country.

The thousands of places listed in the geographical index illustrate the fact that, beyond the borders of France, the story of migration that stand out from a reading of the book is a transnational, European and even worldwide phenomenon.

The guide generally sketches out a history of emigration, travel and immigration at a crossroads in the history of France, Europe and the other continents.
Founded in 1993, *Migrance* is the leading review specialising in the history of immigration in France and Europe. Published twice a year, a thousand copies are distributed in France and abroad (Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, Spain, United States, etc.).

With some issues that are totally dedicated to migrations within a European country and others, that develop a particular theme – the press, archives, associative life, etc. –, *Migrance* is for researchers, students and anyone interested in the history of immigration in France and Europe.

*Migrance* has produced issues about the history of immigration in the United Kingdom, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Portugal and Spain. Issues are currently being prepared on Greece and Italy.

*Migrance*’s editorial committee is made up of researchers working in France or another European country. Each issue is coordinated by a specialist researcher in the history of migrations.

*Migrance* is available by the issue or by subscription from Génériques, and is also presented on the Association’s Diverse Reviews site www.revues-plurielles.org for on-line orders.

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Out-of-stock issues of Migrance may be consulted on line on the Génériques website.